

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 20 of 1882.]

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 20th May 1882.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi"	Calcutta ...	2,100	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
2	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong ...	600	
3	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto ...	.....	12th May 1882.
<i>Weekly.</i>				
4	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta ...	700	8th ditto.
5	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto ...	.....	19th ditto.
6	"Bangabāsi"	Ditto ...	.....	13th ditto.
7	"Bhārat Bandhu"	Ditto ...	.....	16th ditto.
8	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensing ...	671	9th ditto.
9	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta ...	2,000	
10	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Burdwan ...	206	9th ditto.
11	"Chāruvārtā"	Sherepore, Mymensing ...	.....	8th ditto.
12	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca ...	350	14th ditto.
13	"Dūt"	Calcutta ...	.....
14	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	745	12th ditto.
15	"Grāmvārtā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly ...	.....	13th ditto.
16	"Halisahar Prakāshikā"	Calcutta ...	.....	13th ditto.
17	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye ...	200	17th ditto.
18	"Medinī"	Midnapore ...	.....	15th ditto.
19	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore ...	487	12th ditto.
20	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Ditto ...	.....
21	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta ...	850	15th ditto.
22	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet ...	.....	14th ditto.
23	"Pratikār"	Berhampore ...	275	5th ditto.
24	"Rajshahye Samvād"	Beauleah ...	.....
25	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kakiniā, Rungpore ...	250	18th ditto.
26	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah ...	500	14th ditto.
27	"Sahachar"	Calcutta ...	500	10th ditto.
28	"Som Prakāsh"	Changripottā, 24-Perghs. ...	.....	15th ditto.
29	"Sudhākar"	Mymensing ...	.....
30	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta ...	4,000	13th ditto.
31	"Srihatta Prakāsh"	Sylhet ...	440	
32	"Tripurā Vārtāvaha"	Commillah ...	.....	13th ditto.
<i>Daily.</i>				
33	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Calcutta ...	700	12th to 17th May 1882.
34	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	300	15th to 20th ditto.
35	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto ...	625	13th to 16th ditto.
36	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto ...	500	15th to 20th ditto.
37	"Prabhāti"	Ditto ...	.....	16th to 19th ditto.
38	"Samāchār Sudhābarsan"	Ditto ...	.....
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
39	"Urdu Guide"	Ditto ...	365	16th May 1882.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
HINDI.				
Weekly.				
40	"Behár Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna ...	500	11th May 1882. 15th ditto.
41	"Bhárat Mitra"	Calcutta ...	500	
42	"Sár Sudhánidhi"	Ditto ...	200	
43	"Uchit Baktá"	Ditto ...	.....
PERSIAN.				
Weekly.				
44	"Jám-Jahán-numá"	Ditto ...	250	12th ditto.
URDU.				
Weekly.				
45	"Akhbár-i-Darussaltanat"	Ditto ...	.....
ASSAMESE.				
Monthly.				
46	"Assam Vilásiní"	Sibsagar ...	.....
URIYA.				
Weekly.				
47	"Utkal Dípiká"	Cuttack ...	200	
48	"Utkal Darpan"	Balasore ...	160	
49	"Balasore Samvad Váhika"	Ditto ...	125	
Fortnightly.				
50	"Mayurbhunj Pákshik Pátriká"	Mayurbhunj ...	.....
HINDI.				
Monthly.				
51	"Kshatriya Patriká"	Patna ...	.....

POLITICAL.

1. REFERRING to the atrocities that are being committed in Mandalay by Theebaw, the *Cháru Várá*, of the 8th

CHARU VARTA,
May 8th, 1882.

Atrocities in Burmah.

May, expresses the hope that the Government will refuse to enter into any treaty with him until his ambassador who is now in India can submit a satisfactory explanation of the present state of affairs in that country. What seems to be required is that the Indian Government should mark its sense of displeasure by cutting off all diplomatic relation with the court at Mandalay. No civilized government should tolerate such atrocities, committed as they are before its eyes. The writer would not, of course, counsel a declaration of war, but thinks that all means should be used, short of that extreme expedient, which one independent government could rightly employ in respect of another independent government.

2. The *Sádháraní*, of the 14th May, contains an article on

SADHARANI,
May 14th, 1882.

Burmah and the British Government.

Burmah. The editor condemns the selfish advice given by the *Pioneer* newspaper to Government, to annex Burmah on the alleged ground of the atrocities that are being committed by Theebaw. Now one finds a difficulty in believing all the stories of cruelty circulated by the *Rangoon Gazette* respecting that king. At any rate, there is no means available for testing their correctness. Government should be careful in deciding upon the course it should follow in reference to Burmah. If it resolved upon annexation, it should first ascertain whether England was prepared to pay for the means the adoption of which would be necessary to bring about that result, and for all the frontier wars that it would find itself engaged in ever afterwards. India could not in justice be held liable to pay a single *cowrie* in aid of the war charges, for the simple reason that Theebaw has never wronged India or any European in India.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

3. We extract the following observations from an article in the

PRATIKAR,
May 5th, 1882.

Sir Ashley Eden's scheme of local self-government.

Pratikár of the 5th May, headed "Self-government":—The scheme of local self-government sketched out by Sir Ashley Eden is one that was indeed worthy of him. There is nothing new in it, and the work of self-government will not be advanced even one step by it. In fact the present scheme is not in any respect superior to that framed about twelve years ago in regard to Road Cess Committees by Sir George Campbell; nay, is rather inferior to it. The district and the local boards of Sir Ashley Eden's scheme correspond remarkably to the district and the branch road cess committees of Sir George Campbell. Of course there are small points of difference; but any special recommendation which the present scheme might possess loses its value when the proposal to appoint magisterial officers as chairmen of district and local boards, and to vest them with the power of nominating members, is taken into consideration. The only effect of this proposal, if carried out, will be to cause the appointment to these boards of men noted for their obsequiousness to the local officials, and this will mean utter failure. The present scheme possesses two recommendations, viz. (1) the provision regarding the grant of a travelling allowance to the members, which will remove the chief obstacle to regular attendance on their part, and (2) the proposal to introduce the elective system into the boards. This plan, however, is not likely to be attended with success. The property qualification required of a member will have the effect of throwing all power into the hands of landholders. So much for the constitution of the boards. As regards

their powers, it would be no exaggeration to say that they would have none. They would be required to act in consultation with the several departmental authorities, and in case of a difference of opinion, would have to accept the decision of the Divisional Commissioner as final. It is not easy to see how the local boards could be strengthened without curtailing, which Sir Ashley Eden is unwilling to do, the powers of District Magistrates. By his scheme of local self-government, Sir Ashley Eden has sought to throw dust into the eyes of Lord Ripon. The late Lieutenant-Governor affected a loyal adherence to the views of the Government of India on this most important subject, but in practice sought to palm off old goods as new under new titles.

ANANDA BASAR
PATRIKA,
May 8th, 1882.

4. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 8th May, expresses the hope that Mr. Thompson will gradually redress the wrongs inflicted on the people by his predecessor. One matter, however, requires his immediate attention, namely, the oppressions which are now being committed by indigo and tea planters on the natives of the country. In Rajshahye the high-handed proceedings of Messrs. Watson and Company have had the effect of making ten thousand ryots helpless and houseless beggars. The same story is heard from Midnapore and Sylhet. It is high time that the Lieutenant-Governor should interfere.

ANANDA BASAR
PATRIKA.

5. The same paper remarks that the retirement of Mr. Justice White will take away, as it were, light from the High Court. The respect and confidence which the people reposed in that Court have been decreasing ever since Sir Richard Garth became Chief Justice. The able and independent Judges of the Court have one by one retired, and when Mr. White retires, there will not be left one able Judge behind. Mr. O'Kinealy is gradually winning respect by the manner in which he is doing his work, but he is a junior Judge, and will find it difficult to hold his own against the seniors; besides, the departure of Mr. White will probably have a depressing effect upon him. People are beginning to feel more and more respect for Justice Bose; but then he is a Bengali.

CHARU VARTA,
May 8th, 1882.

6. The *Charu Vartá*, of the 8th May, remarks that if Mr. Thompson should adopt the views of his predecessor on the subject of local self-government, and thus seek to evade a grave responsibility, a few alone will be able to enjoy the boon of self-government. Sir Ashley Eden was not prepared to concede the privilege indiscriminately to all districts. He was indeed right in holding that some districts are in a more backward condition than others. But it is not wise to exclude the former from the benefit of the proposed arrangement on the ground of this inequality. Were all counties equally advanced when local self-government was conferred upon the people of England? Favourable circumstances, and the exertion called forth by responsible work, would soon remove all shortcomings. The proposed local boards should be perfectly free from interference on the part of magisterial officers; otherwise there could be no real self-government. Of course, until competent native gentlemen were found ready to become chairmen, such officers might be temporarily appointed to the office. If a property qualification were recognized as the basis of nomination to the board, not a few able men would be excluded therefrom. Sir Ashley Eden's scheme is not very clear on the subject of the powers to be conferred on the boards.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
May 9th, 1882.

Sir Ashley Eden's scheme of local self government.

7. On the same subject, the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 9th May, makes similar observations.

8. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 9th May, remarks that the people of these provinces expect much from

BHARAT MIHIR,
May 9th, 1882.

A prayer to Mr. Rivers Thompson.

Mr. Thompson. They hope that he will take a lesson from his predecessor's unpopularity, and that he will look with favour upon educated natives. Above all, the new Lieutenant-Governor, it is hoped, will show a liberal sympathy with all classes of the people. The Editor then proceeds to direct the attention of His Honor to the necessity of (1) expediting the operations of the Dacca and Mymensingh Railway, for which the people of East Bengal have become impatient, (2) of fostering high education and female education, keeping particularly in view the importance of imparting a moral training to the pupils in the schools; and (3) of removing the invidious distinction which is now made between Europeans and natives.

9. Referring to the circular issued by the Government of India

BHARAT MIHIR.

The power of native civilians to try European British subjects.

to the several Local Governments, inviting an expression of opinion on the subject of the advisability of empowering native civilians to try European British subjects, the same paper remarks that by reason of the invidious distinction it makes between European and native offenders, the Criminal Procedure Code has brought disgrace upon the laws of British India. It further shows the distrust with which the people of this country are viewed by Government. Although some time must elapse before the new code will come into force, still, on the ground of urgency, Lord Ripon expressed his unwillingness to accept the amendments moved in the Legislative Council by Baboo Durga Charan Laha. This fact has caused some uneasiness in the public mind, which will be removed if His Excellency but give effect to those amendments now. It is, however, necessary that the power to try European British subjects should be conferred upon native Deputy Magistrates also.

10. The *Sahachar*, of the 10th May, remarks that Mr. Croft

SAHACHAR,
May 10th, 1882.

Mr. Croft's speech at Nawabgunge.

delivered an excellent speech on the occasion of the opening of the Sridhar Banshidhur school at Nawabgunge. He clearly showed that Bengalis are not being gratuitously educated by Government. The whole speech is one which the Education Commission will do well to incorporate in their report.

11. The same paper regrets that it cannot approve of the scheme

SAHACHAR.

Sir Ashley Eden's scheme of local self-government.

of local self-government sketched out by Sir Ashley Eden. By publishing his views on the subject, he has injured the people of Bengal in two ways; in the first place, his scheme does not possess much merit, and if accepted in its entirety, will do more harm than good, and in the second place, he has hampered the action of his successor, who might otherwise have freely communicated his own opinion to the Government of India. Sir Ashley Eden is opposed to the simultaneous introduction of the principles of self-government into all places in Bengal, on the ground that some localities are more advanced than others. This is perfectly true; but considering that the institution of village punchayet, which is based upon the principles of local self-government, has existed in almost all districts, it is not clear that evil will result from the simultaneous introduction of the proposed system into all parts of the country.

12. The *Moorshedabad Patrikâ*, of the 12th May, directs the attention

MURSHIDABAD PATRIKÂ,
May 12th, 1882.

The projected Railway from Ranaghat to Bhagawangola.

of the Lieutenant-Governor to the necessity of taking in hand without further delay the projected Railway from Ranaghat through Kishnagur and Moorshedabad to Bhagawangola. The project originated with Sir Richard Temple. It shows no little indifference on the part of the authorities that a small railway profit should remain a project under three successive Lieutenant-Governors.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
May 12th, 1882.

13. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, of the 12th May, remarks that if Government required the authorities of the Eastern Bengal Railway to effect a junction of the Bhairab and the Ichamutty rivers near the Ramnagar station by cutting through the road which now separates the two streams, and to construct a bridge over the spot, a great benefit would be conferred upon the inhabitants of that portion of the country. The Bhairab could thus be made navigable by boats, which would then be able to come from Kotchandpore, Maheshpore, and other important localities, to Calcutta in less than half the time now required for the voyage. An impetus would be given to trade, and an abundant supply of good drinking-water secured to the people.

The Bhairab river.

TRIPURÁ VÁRTÁVAHA,
May 13th, 1882.

Sir Ashley Eden's scheme of local self-government.

14. The *Tripurá Vártávaha*, of the 13th May, contains an article condemning Sir Ashley Eden's scheme of local self-government. The observations made by the writer are similar to those noticed before.

BANGABASI,
May 13th, 1882.

15. The *Bangabási*, of the 13th May, remarks, in reference to the memorial made to the Government of India by certain inhabitants of Bogra against Mr. Sharp, that it is a temperately written and closely reasoned document. The Editor hopes that Lord Ripon will do justice in the case.

Memorial against Mr. Sharp.

BANGABASI.

16. The same paper remarks that by its civil circular order No. 31, dated 30th August 1880, the High Court has considerably increased the trouble, inconvenience, and expense attending the execution of decrees of Civil Courts. The search which the decree-holder is required to make in the books of the registry office, with a view to discover whether the property seized has been already mortgaged or otherwise transferred to another, is often a mockery. The person deputed by decree-holder pays the searching fee to the registrar, and after nominally turning over the books placed before him, returns and makes an affidavit before the Court that the property is free from all encumbrances. This is what takes place in the large majority of cases. The object of the High Court is not attained, and the decree-holder is the only sufferer. The circular order therefore should be cancelled, or the decree-holder be required to deposit the searching fees in Court, which should direct the necessary inquiries to be made.

Execution of Civil Court decrees.

SADHARANI,
May 14th, 1882.

Sir Ashley Eden's scheme of local self-government.

17. The *Sádháraní*, of the 14th May, observes that if the scheme of self-government drawn up by Sir Ashley Eden be approved, few persons will have the right to vote, and fewer still the right to be appointed members of the local boards. If the possession of the property qualification proposed by him be insisted upon, there will be no real self-government for the people of Bengal, who are poor and live under the joint family system.

SADHARANI.

A few words of advice to Mr. Thompson.

18. The same paper contains a long article in which the writer offers a few words of advice to the Lieutenant-Governor. His Honor should not listen to the praises of interested persons, the enemies of their country, or be displeased with his outspoken critics. The first great work that lies before him is how to rid the country of that terrible scourge of the malarious fever which is decimating the population. He should be impartial, conscientious, and self-sacrificing in the discharge of his duties.

SOM PRAKÁSH,
May 15th, 1882.

British rule in India.

19. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 15th May, continues the subject of the future of the Indian Empire noticed in paragraph 16 of our last report. The Editor remarks that though there exists some discontent among the people, still it is not that discontent which would make them desire the subversion of British rule in India. They fully understand their own interests, and

are convinced that India cannot sever her connection with England without bringing upon herself all the calamities of foreign invasion, civil war, and bloody contests for supremacy. The people have not yet become properly educated or fit for complete self-government. For all these reasons, they love to live under the shadow of British rule, in order that they may thus be able to cultivate the arts of peace. That they occasionally express dissatisfaction is owing to the fact of their poverty and increasing difficulty of earning a livelihood. They ask for sympathy from England, and crave for equal treatment. They ask that, in view of the contingency, however remote, of England severing her connection with India, the British Government should train the people in the art of self-government, so that, if matters really came to that pass, they might be able to retain their independence against a foreign foe. For all these reasons, it behoves Government to desist from the course it follows at present, of fomenting race antagonism between the different sections of the Indian people.

20. The same paper notices with concern that Lord Ripon has invited an expression of opinion from civilians on the question of the advisability of empowering native civilians to try European British subjects.

Trial by native civilians of European British subjects.

This only shows how weak-minded the Viceroy is, and what great value he attaches to the opinions of his own countrymen. As to the subject on which opinion has been asked, it is one on which civilians are as qualified to pronounce impartial views as a man-eating tiger would be on the necessity of giving up the use of animal food.

SOM PRAKASH,
May 15th, 1882.

21. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 15th May, remarks, in reference to the memorial made to Government by certain inhabitants of Bogra against Mr. Sharp, that the memorialists are supported by a strong body of educated public opinion in these provinces. It behoves Lord Ripon to take this respectful petition into his careful consideration. It is strange to note that Mr. Sharp has been promoted to a District Magistrateship.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
May 15th, 1882.

22. The same paper observes that while Government is always eloquent in its exposition of the duties of landlords to their tenants, it is a most harassing landlord in its own khas mehals. Its practice does not tally with its precepts. It will perhaps plead a lack of funds; but even if the question were considered in that light, its policy in the khas mehals is as wise(?) as the policy of that man who sought to at once become rich by killing the goose that laid golden eggs. The writer then dwells upon the over-assessments sanctioned by Government in the khas mehals Jellamutha and Majnamutha.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 20th May 1882.

